

REMARKS

Claims 1-12 are pending in the application. As will be discussed in detail below, it is believed that the application is in condition for allowance.

Claim 10 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite because of the use of the word "perhaps." The word "perhaps" has been deleted. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection be withdrawn.

Claims 1-12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Henrick (U.S. 6,507,727). The filing date of the Henrick reference is October 13, 2000. Applicant notes that this application properly claims priority to EP 00101350.7, which has a filing date of January 24, 2000. A certified copy of the priority document was submitted on June 1, 2001. Because the Examiner has not acknowledged the claim for priority, Applicant has provided a copy of the documents that were submitted to the patent office on June 1, 2001. Those documents include our certificate of mailing, which states that we sent the priority document on June 1, 2001 and also a copy of our return postcard indicating that the patent office received the priority document on June 7, 2001.

Applicant is also providing herewith a certified English translation of the priority document. As such, Applicant has properly antedated the Henrick reference. Accordingly, because all of the claims were rejected using the Henrick reference, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the rejections as to all of the claims.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the instant application is in condition for allowance. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that this application be allowed and a Notice of Allowance issued. If the Examiner believes that a telephone conference with Applicant's attorneys would be advantageous to the disposition of this case, the Examiner is cordially requested to telephone the undersigned.

In the event the Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks deems additional fees to be due in connection with this application, Applicant's attorney hereby authorizes that such fee be charged to Deposit Account No. 06-1130.

Respectfully submitted,

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